



Sheila Dixon

*Mayor,
Baltimore*

250 City Hall • Baltimore Maryland 21202
410-396-3835 • Fax: 410-576-9425

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CONTACT:

**Anthony McCarthy
(410) 869-6079 (Cell)**

Mayor Sheila Dixon Awards \$6 Million to Baltimore's Affordable Housing Fund and Increases Funds to Community Groups

Baltimore, MD (April 11, 2007) — In keeping with her pledge to expand affordable housing to low- and moderate-income families, Baltimore Mayor Sheila Dixon increased CDBG contributions to the Affordable Housing Fund (AHP) to \$6 million, doubling the figure from last year. The AHP was established to promote economically diverse housing in Baltimore City neighborhoods. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds will be combined with other resources to acquire and demolish blighted properties in order to create sites for development of modern, economically diverse neighborhoods with housing opportunities affordable to households of all incomes.

“High-quality housing that is affordable for people at every income level is essential for building strong communities,” said Mayor Dixon. “I am committed to ensuring that every Baltimore resident has a good home in a safe, clean and green neighborhood.”

As further evidence of the Mayor's commitment to community development, nonprofit organizations will receive increased CDBG funding in the coming year. \$4.8 million of the CDBG funds will support the administrative and service delivery operations of 64 nonprofit organizations. The funds being awarded reflect a 15.2% increase over last year's allocation.

“I am elated by the Mayor's commitment to affordable housing and the support of vital community based organizations,” said Baltimore Housing Commissioner Paul Graziano.

The much-needed contributions from the City come at a time when the CDBG program is undergoing drastic Federal budget cuts. Over the last four years, entitlement funding for the CDBG program has been significantly reduced by more than \$4 million.

CDBG, one of Baltimore Housing's greatest success stories, is funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). While Federal regulations govern many aspects of the program, communities have significant latitude in determining local priorities for their CDBG programs. Currently, 64 nonprofit community organizations will be awarded CDBG funding.

CDBG's main objectives are to develop viable communities by providing decent, affordable housing, creating suitable living environments and expanding local economic opportunities. With

the City's recent contributions, the CDBG program plans to continue providing activities such as housing development; homeownership counseling; employment training; technical assistance to businesses; fair housing and disability education; planning; senior services; and tutorial and literacy programs.

The draft Annual Action Plan for FY 2007/CFY 2008 was released for public comment on April 2, 2007. The Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development will conduct a public hearing today at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Estimates Room, City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street, Baltimore, MD. The primary purpose for this hearing is to afford the public an opportunity to discuss the contents of the draft Annual Action Plan for FY 2007/CFY 2008. The draft Plan serves as the application to be used to apply for funding under four Federal formula programs – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) and Housing Opportunities for Person With AIDS (HOPWA).

The draft Annual Action Plan and a “Summary of Activities” can be downloaded from Baltimore Housing's website at www.baltimorehousing.org. Copies of these documents are also available for review at the following locations: The Department of Housing & Community Development, 401 E. Fayette Street, Room 1101, Baltimore, MD 21202 or The Enoch Pratt Library, 400 Cathedral Street, The Maryland Room, Baltimore, MD 21201.

The public will have until Tuesday, May 1, 2007 to provide written comment on the draft application. A final Annual Action Plan, incorporating public comments, will be made available upon submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. For additional information, please contact Susan Taylor, Chief, CDBG Office at (410) 396-4207.

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